

Calderon, Wanda

From: Harris-Bishop, Rusty
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 6:23 PM
To: Kluesner, Dave; Acevedo, Janie; Seppi, Pat; Calderon, Wanda
Cc: Rodriguez, Elias; Mears, Mary
Subject: RE: URGENT: ISSUE RAISED BY BRENDA IN CEPD - PEOPLE MAY BE DRINKING WATER FROM SOME OF OUR SF SITES

I'm replying now . . . here initial question about not knowing if the wells are contaminated is one that they should be able to answer. We had a no-action ROD last year, and said that the contamination was dissipating. Sampling data should be available from the RPM in CEPD.

Ops is proposing sending a team out tomorrow, but we assessed the site on October 6. I don't know who the CIC was on the assessment team, but the report noted that locals told them that people had been using the well for drinking water, and containers were found near the well, and pumps had been removed. Presumably, people are bailing the well for water.

We should definitely put in our press release a warning not to drink from unknown or abandoned wells of questionable water quality, but we don't know if these wells are contaminated (though they probably are a long term risk, just don't know about the short-term risk).

I think we should have Brenda work with Elias responding to media inquiries in Puerto Rico, and we can include her on the org chart. I will need to coordinate with y'all to make sure we have her role accurately described.

Rusty

From: Kluesner, Dave
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 3:17 PM
To: Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>; Seppi, Pat <Seppi.Pat@epa.gov>; Calderon, Wanda <Calderon.Wanda@epa.gov>
Cc: Rodriguez, Elias <Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT: ISSUE RAISED BY BRENDA IN CEPD - PEOPLE MAY BE DRINKING WATER FROM SOME OF OUR SF SITES

Had a lengthy conversation with Brenda. She should definitely be folded into the response structure. Has a lot of useful information and long-standing relationships. Can assist with outreach and press, but she needs guidance on how to do this from an operational stand point. thanks

David W. Kluesner



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From: Kluesner, Dave

Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 6:02 PM

To: Acevedo, Janie <acevedo.janie@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>; Seppi, Pat <Seppi.Pat@epa.gov>

Cc: Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Guerrero, Carmen <guerrero.carmen@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: URGENT: ISSUE RAISED BY BRENDA IN CEPD - PEOPLE MAY BE DRINKING WATER FROM SOME OF OUR SF SITES

Thanks all. This will need to be a coordinated action within the response structure. With the CEPD office now open, and as our ground operations have expanded, we've been moving towards inclusion of Brenda in the response structure and considering the best options for how to make that happen. Seems like this would be a good point to figure out the integration. Also, that of the Asst. PIOs for Comm Relations in the REOC and in the San Juan JFO.

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From: Acevedo, Janie

Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:51 PM

To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>; Seppi, Pat <Seppi.Pat@epa.gov>

Cc: Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Guerrero, Carmen <guerrero.carmen@epa.gov>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: URGENT: ISSUE RAISED BY BRENDA IN CEPD - PEOPLE MAY BE DRINKING WATER FROM SOME OF OUR SF SITES

Talking to Ops....

From: Mears, Mary

Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:33 PM

To: Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>; Seppi, Pat <Seppi.Pat@epa.gov>

Cc: Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Guerrero, Carmen <guerrero.carmen@epa.gov>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>

Subject: URGENT: ISSUE RAISED BY BRENDA IN CEPD - PEOPLE MAY BE DRINKING WATER FROM SOME OF OUR SF SITES

Importance: High

Janie and Rusty and Pat,

[Note to Janie and Rusty: Brenda does public affairs and community work for our Caribbean Environmental Protection Division] See her note below. I am cc:ing Walter for awareness.

Can one of you please report this to REOC Ops immediately? I don't know if the water from these wells poses a short-term risk, but I leave it to our experts to figure out how to stop people from drinking the water from these wells.

Media outreach and flyers may well be needed too, as Brenda notes, but I think the first step is to get Ops involved. They might be able to install some security at the sites, if appropriate.

Mary Mears
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From: Reyes, Brenda
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:20 PM
To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Cc: Guerrero, Carmen <guerrero.carmen@epa.gov>
Subject: URGENT MEDIA COMMUNITY ISSUE

It came to our attention this afternoon that one of the teams assessing Superfund sites found out that residents tampered the well in Caguas Hormigas Superfund site and are using it to extract water. The winds took out all signs in this Superfund sites. Upon making a few phone calls we found that in the wells in Dorado Superfund site water was extracted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and our CDM contractor confirmed that a resident of Maunabo had requested to use the water at the wells in the site.

Yesterday I had told CEPD Director that my most pressing concern was the use of water in the San Germán Superfund site where we have an unknown number of wells that were dugged in 1975 after Hurricane Eloise, when residents were without water for many months. These Superfund sites have VOC's and are at different stages in the process.

I strongly suggest we make a media pitch on radio and print with CEPD director urging people no to tamper these wells or use that water, work to have signs up ASAP, make flyers that can be distributed house to house and within the communities and the neighborhoods. This is an URGENT matter.

Please contact Carmen and/or myself.

Brenda

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